introducing into a plant cell a first recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding a selectable marker gene flanked by a pair of compatible recombining sites,

providing a recombinase compatible to said pair of compatible recombining sites to said plant cell to permit excision of said selectable marker gene,

A1 amended

regenerating a transplastomic plant containing said first recombinant DNA sequence without said selectable marker gene from said plant cell, and

introducing a second recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising a second DNA sequence encoding said selectable marker gene into a plant cell of said transplastomic plant obtained from said regenerated plant.

25. (amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said recombinase is provided to said plant cells by introducing a third recombinant DNA sequence comprising in an operably coupled 5' to 3' manner:

a transcriptional initiation region, a plastid targeting region, and a nucleic acid sequence encoding recombinase.

26. (amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said construct in said first recombinant DNA sequence further comprises a DNA sequence encoding a gene of interest other than a selectable marker gene outside of said pair of compatible recombining sites.

Please cancel claim 27.

A2

28. (amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said pair of compatible recombining sites are in directly repeated orientation.

Please cancel claims 29-31.